

Dwight Pelz
Metropolitan King County Council
District Five

April 8, 2004

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to urge your support for the proposed park development at the former York Substation in the Rainier Valley. As the King County Councilmember representing this area, I have worked to increase the amount of open space in the valley.

Southeast Seattle is home to large numbers of children and families but precious little open space outside of Seward and Jefferson Parks. With the recent acquisition of Hitt's Hill and a new park site at the end of Bradford Street, privately donated through Seattle Parks Foundation, the York Substation property would give residents of the central area of the valley a string of restful, invigorating places to visit and relax. This site also has historic importance to King County as the farthest north visible section of the old County Road from Renton to Seattle.

This is the type of project I am proud to support as a King County Councilmember. The projects which have the best chance of succeeding are those that come from the community itself instead of government planners. Neighbors fought successfully to get the acquisition of this property included into the Pro Parks initiative.

This neighborhood has demonstrated a willingness to work hard to improve the safety and physical appearance of their community. Now it is crucial that they receive the funds to move forward on returning the park to a place where citizens can enjoy. I am very impressed with the level of volunteerism and commitment they demonstrate. I believe it is highly probable that they will provide considerable volunteer time and resources to this project.

I strongly encourage support of the project to make the York Substation Park a community resource for future generations. This park is very important to helping build a sense of community and connectedness in the neighborhood it serves.

Sincerely,



Dwight Pelz
King County Councilmember

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